

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE INTERPRETATION 06-04

CODE REFERENCE:

NFPA 20 (2003), 5.18.1

BACKGROUND:

The code section prohibits the use of a pump relief valve unless the pump driver is diesel or if a variable speed pressure limiting control driver is used.

NFPA 13 and NFPA 14 limits the pressure to 175 psi to the devices in each system.

INTERPRETATION:

Single, series, or parallel PRV's that are pilot operated, installed after the fire pump discharge control valve is considered on the sprinkler/standpipe system(s) and will not violate NFPA 20. The FDC tie-in must be located after the PRV.

All piping, fittings, valves, etc. shall be listed for high pressure from the pump discharge to the pressure reducing device discharge.

JUSTIFICATION:

Installation of PRV's on the sprinkler and/or standpipe risers is not prohibited and the location described above is not considered a part of the fire pump piping.

The use of PRV's after the pump piping eliminates the possibility of misadjusted valves on individual floors to hinder the supply through the FDC.

(See the attached fire pump piping drawing)

PREPARED BY: D. Deckert, P.E.


Montgomery County Fire Marshal

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DATE